

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-03

L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:JJSISCO:HME

EXT. 29589 7/18/7B

APPROVED BY NEA:RPDAVIES

NEA:AHMEYER

NEA/INS:LBLAINGEN

AA/ASIA :ADWHITE

----- 121699

P 182146Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 141133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: US RUPEE POSITION

REF: STATE 140398

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. I WANT TO ALERT YOU PERSONALLY TO THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WE CAN HAVE ON THE HILL ABOUT RUPEES. THE OPPOSITION EXPRESSED DURING SESSION WITH PASSMAN'S COMMITTEE YESTERDAY POINTS THIS UP. CLEARLY WE HAVE GOT A GOOD DEAL MORE WORK TO DO ON THE HILL. THE REASON I AM UNDERSCORING THIS IS THAT AS YOU BEGIN YOUR TALKS WITH THE INDIANS ON RUPEES THEY SHOULD BE MADE AWARE AT THE OUTSET THAT WE HAVE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS AND THAT CRIPPLING AMENDMENTS COULD VERY WELL PRECLUDE OUR ENTERING INTO A DEAL WITH THEM, NOTWITHSTANDING THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE FORTHCOMING POSITION WITH WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ARMED.

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2. OBVIOUSLY WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN TO

AVERT A SITUATION WHERE YOU GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU HAVE SETTLED ON SOME SPECIFIC FIGURE AND WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF BACK HERE BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION. YOU AND I HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME - THAT INDIA CANNOT BUY A LEAD NICKEL ON THE HILL. THIS REFLECTS

WHAT HAS BEEN A LONG-HELD VIEW IN MY JUDGMENT - THAT MANY AMERICANS FEEL THAT OUR AID HAS BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY THE INDIANS AND THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN US A FAIR SHAKE IN THE SENSE OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. BE THAT AS IT MAY, I WANTED TO SEND UP THIS WARNING SIGNAL RIGHT AT THE OUTSET SO THAT NO ONE IS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

3. I NEED HARDLY ADD THAT THE LESS PUBLICITY WE HAVE ON THIS THE BETTER IN TERMS OF STIRRING UP OPPOSITION.

4. WE MAY WANT SOME ADDITIONAL HELP FROM YOU PERSONALLY ON THE HILL AT A GIVEN POINT. RUSH

SECRET

NNN

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30 JUN 2005

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